

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01
COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02
ORM-02 IO-13 EUR-12 /117 W

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P 040915Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8373

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 4792

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5119

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, MY

SUBJECT: ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING: OPENING SESSION

1. ALTHOUGH THE OPENING SESSION OF THE ASEAN SUMMIT UNDOUBTED-
LY WILL BE AMPLY REPORTED IN THE PRESS, THE FOLLOWING BRIEF
SUMMARY MAY BE USEFUL.

2. THE MEETING WAS OPENED BY A BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT BY THE
SUMMIT CHAIRMAN, MALAYSIA'S PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN, AND WAS
FOLLOWED BY AN UNREMARKABLE SPEECH BY INDONESIA'S PRESIDENT SUHARTO.
PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT MARCOS THEN STOLE THE PRESS HEADLINES IN
HIS FORMAL STATEMENT BY ANNOUNCING IN A CAREFULLY WORDED
FORMULATION THAT HE IS TAKING STEPS TO ELIMINATE THE PHILIP-
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PINE CLAIM TO SABAH, THUS REMOVING A BURDEN FROM ASEAN.
HUSSEIN ONN, IN HIS FORMAL STATEMENT AS LAST SPEAKER, IN AN
EQUALLY CAREFULLY WORDED FORMULATION, EXPRESSED HIS
HAPPINESS AND APPRECIATION AT MARCOS' STATEMENT, SENTIMENTS
HE WAS SURE WERE SHARED BY ALL THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA.
COMMENT: THIS IS PRESUMABLY THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS WHICH
MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO FULLY REALIZE.

3. MARCOS COVERED THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL THEMES IN HIS SPEECH: A) ASEAN'S STRENGTH DEPENDS ON THE STRENGTH OF INDIVIDUAL ASEAN MEMBERS; B) DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD LIBERALIZE THEIR TRADE RATHER THAN PROVIDE AID; E) ASEAN SHOULD SEEK TO BUILD PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE INDO-CHINA STATES.

4. SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW WAS AT HIS PROVOCATIVE, SCEPTICAL BEST IN SKETCHING OUT HIS ANALYSIS OF ASEAN'S POTENTIAL. HE SAID JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH ASEAN WOULD DEPEND ON JAPAN'S ASSESSMENT OF ASEAN'S LONG-TERM IMPORTANCE TO JAPAN, AND HE CALLED ON ASEAN TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IMPORTANCE. HE CITED SECRETARY VANCE'S ASIA SOCIETY SPEECH AS EVIDENCE THAT THE U.S. HAD A NEW APPROACH TO ASIA, IN WHICH IT ATTACHED GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO ITS SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN AND RELIED ON PRIMARILY ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE REST OF ASIA. HE MENTIONED THE U.S. DECISION TO WITHDRAW ALL ITS GROUND TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA DESPITE SLIGHT JAPANESE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE MOVE. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, HE SCOFFED AT THOSE WHO ACCUSED ASEAN OF BEING A REGIONAL SECURITY GROUPING SERVING AMERICAN INTERESTS. FINALLY, LEE CALLED ON THE ASEAN SUMMIT TO GO WELL BEYOND THE AGREED 71 ITEMS ON WHICH INTRA-ASEAN TRADE BARRIERS ARE TO BE LOWERED, AND TO GET ON WITH THE FIVE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS ALREADY AGREED UPON.

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5. THAI PRIME MINISTER THANIN'S SPEECH WAS NOTEWORTHY ONLY FOR ITS CLEAR REFERENCE TO THE "NEW REALITY" OF THE INDO-CHINA STATES' HOSTILITY TO ASEAN, SAYING THIS WAS NOT A PROBLEM FOR THE FUTURE, BUT A PRESENT CHALLENGE. NEVERTHELESS, HE EMPHASIZED THAILAND'S INTENTIONS TO SEEK FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH INDOCHINA. HE REFERRED TO THE INDOCHINA STATES' "SELECTIVE PREFERENCES" IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES, WITH THE AIM OF CREATING STRAIN AND TENSIONS, AND ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW ASEAN WOULD COPE WITH THIS TACTIC. THANIN ALSO CALLED FOR GREATER ASEAN COOPERATION ON DRUG ABUSE, AND FOR REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES.

6. THE VIETNAMESE AND SOVIET AMBASSADORS BOYCOTTED THE OPENING SESSION, AS DID THE GDR AND POLISH CHARGES. (ONLY THE VIETNAMESE BOYCOTTED THE ARRIVALS OF THE PRINCIPALS YESTERDAY.) THE PRC CHARGE APPEARED AT THE OPENING SESSION AND AT THE AIRPORT FOR THE ARRIVALS OF MARCOS AND THANIN (NOT FOR LEE KUAN YEW OR SUHARTO). THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN PRESENT ON ALL OCCASIONS SO FAR.

MILLER

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